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Statistical Notice of the Town and Parish of Cheltenham.

By RICHARD BEAMISH, Esq., F.R.S.

[Read before Section F, Economic Science and Statistics, of the British Association for the Advancement of Science, at Cheltenham, on Saturday, the 9th August, 1856.]

OF the early history of the town of Cheltenham there is little of interest to relate, and it is more with its present condition that we have now to deal.

The parish of Cheltenham forms a parliamentary borough, under 2nd William IV., cap. 45, and comprises about 3,740 acres: it returns one member to Parliament, who is elected by 10 $\frac{1}{2}$ householders, of whom there are 2,485 registered, and is the largest constituency in England returning but one member. The parish is divided into five wards for local purposes, and the town is under the jurisdiction of a high bailiff and constables, appointed at the Court Leet of the Lord of the Manor: local officers are elected under the control of commissioners appointed by 2nd George IV. By an ancient manorial custom, confirmed by Act of Parliament, the eldest female inherits solely all copyhold estates. The appointment to the perpetual curacy of this town is vested in trustees.

The rise of Cheltenham dates from the discovery of mineral springs in its vicinity in 1716, on the property of Mr. Mason, at Bays Hill. Captain Skillicorne, who married Mr. Mason's daughter, erected a pump-room and laid out walks in 1738; and, in 1743, the same gentleman planted the avenue of trees which forms still one of the greatest ornaments of the town. It is 300 yards long by 8 yards in width.

After the visit of George III., in 1788, the town rose rapidly into celebrity, and for a quarter of a century the Spa of the old wells was a singularly prosperous undertaking, it being supposed that the mineral water had but one source; but this spring having proved quite insufficient to supply the demand, the well being not unfrequently exhausted before 9 o'clock in the morning, another well was sunk, by order of George III., which led the way to further examination of the soil. In 1806 Mr. Thompson, by sinking to depths of 80 ft., 130 ft., and 260 ft., on his property in the neighbourhood of Bays Hill, discovered that many strata were saturated with water holding in solution the chloride of sodium and the sulphates of soda and magnesia. Waters nearly similar to those of Mr. Thompson were subsequently discovered at Pittville, some two miles distant. These waters have been subjected to analysis by our first chemists, Messrs. Brande and Parks, Drs. Scudamore and Daubeney, Professor Daniell and Mr. Cooper; they consist of chloride of sodium, (muriate of soda), sulphate of soda, and magnesia; sulphate of lime, oxide of iron, and chloride of magnesia, with a little iodine and bromine. These elements combine in different proportions in the various wells, and give rise to three classes of mineral waters, viz., saline, sulphureous, and chalybeate. The

strength of these waters depends upon the depth to which the wells are sunk.

For many years a remunerative manufacture of "Crystals of the Salts from the Cheltenham Waters" was carried on, but the salts and spas have, for some years, been replaced by other medicinal appliances. From a comparison of the books of the Montpelier spas for the years 1835 and 1855, it appears that for one person who now resorts to these once celebrated springs, fifteen did so twenty years since; the actual number of subscribers in 1835 being 1,567, and in 1855 only 100.

It is generally known that the atmosphere along the entire range of the Cotteswold Hills is remarkable for its purity; and great protection is afforded against the E. and N.E. winds by these hills, which rise upwards of 1,000 feet above the valley. The yearly mean average of these winds, as determined by Mr. Moss during his residence here from 1829 to 1836 was—

E. wind.....	28 days	N.E. wind	33 days
W. "	45 "	N.W. "	26 "
N. "	35 "	S.E. "	51 "
S. "	50 "	S.W. "	97 "

During the prevalence of cholera in 1832 Cheltenham is stated seldom to have enjoyed a larger amount of health, which may be attributed partly to the natural salubrity of the place, and partly to the precautions taken by the Local Board of Health, in cleansing the lower portions of the town, and preventing the entrance of any vagrants.

Cheltenham stands upon alluvial deposits: the blue lias clay is, for the most part, covered for a considerable depth with sand and gravel; consequently the heaviest rains quickly percolate, leaving the surface dry in a remarkably short time. The temperature of Cheltenham is more uniform than that enjoyed by any other locality in England, differing little from that of the south-western portions of France; hence this town has been found especially beneficial to those labouring under disorders of the digestive functions and circulation. Mr. Moss has supplied some tables which corroborate these views, and which appear in the "Cheltenham Annuaire" for 1837.

With regard to the causes of death in Cheltenham, I have prepared tables from the Registrar-General's Returns for the last four years, the object being to present, at one view, the diseases which characterise the town.

Mean of Thermometer, Cheltenham, 1829-36.

Months.	1829.	1830.	1831.	1832.	1833.	1834.	1835.	1836.
January	34·00	32·15	36·47	40·20	36·65	47·15	35·24	38·85
February	41·26	36·85	42·70	39·90	43·69	43·17	42·37	38·49
March	41·73	48·40	46·52	44·60	39·88	45·40	42·28	43·08
April	46·90	50·39	49·63	49·77	48·37	46·63	48·32	45·32
May	56·38	55·45	54·17	54·25	59·26	56·20	52·50	52·34
June	54·80	58·80	61·30	60·30	58·08	59·13	59·81	58·74
July	63·55	63·06	63·36	62·50	60·07	61·76	62·74	60·20
August	59·00	58·24	64·47	61·11	57·64	59·98	62·64	58·40
September	53·76	55·09	58·28	58·51	54·30	58·39	56·21	53·20
October	48·09	52·36	57·33	53·33	51·50	50·75	48·73	48·20
November	41·10	46·76	46·38	47·75	47·21	43·57	43·92	42·16
December	35·11	36·76	46·08	44·27	46·94	41·69	36·92	40·02
Mean	49·97	49·53	52·20	51·37	50·30	51·15	49·30	48·25

Mean of the 8 years, 50·26.

Mean Fall of Rain, Cheltenham, 1833-36.

Months.	1833.	1834.	1835.	1836.
January	0·580	5·110	1·625	2·490
February	5·660	1·905	3·350	2·885
March	2·015	0·950	3·300	4·490
April	3·115	0·960	1·700	2·590
May	0·720	1·090	4·315	0·570
June	3·875	2·325	3·200	2·140
July	3·175	9·600	1·025	3·070
August	1·565	3·610	1·225	2·150
September	3·770	3·255	3·470	2·755
October	2·940	0·435	6·030	3·450
November	2·255	1·940	3·325	4·785
December	3·775	3·120	0·880	...
Annual Amount	33·455	31·500	33·445	33·845

Average of four years, 33·061.

But the best evidence that can be afforded of the healthfulness of Cheltenham is the mortality of its inhabitants and the nature

of the diseases to which they are subject. The following table prepared from the returns made to the Registrar-General will exhibit the causes of death for four years. It was my intention to have extended this most important inquiry, as regards the healthfulness of this favoured locality, to ten years: but the pressing demands upon my time, in assisting to make provision for the reception of the Association, have interfered, and, indeed, left this paper in some respects imperfect. My object has been to present, at one view, the diseases which characterise the town.

Longevity in Cheltenham receives a farther interesting confirmation from the number of aged paupers found within as well as without the workhouse.

For the following table I am indebted to Mr. J. Downing.

Of the 326 paupers in the house, Lady-day, 1856, there were—

	Men.	Women.	Total.
Between 50 and 60	9	8	17
„ 60 „ 70	20	13	33
„ 70 „ 80	25	13	43
„ 80 „ 90	12	8	15
„ 90 „ 94	3	....	3
	69	42	111 or 34 per cent.
Under 50 years .....	....	....	63 „ 19·3 „
Boys, 86; girls, 60.....	....	....	152 „ 46·7 „
			326

Of the 2,146 out-door paupers there were—

	Men.	Women.	Total.
Between 50 and 60	18	76	94
„ 60 „ 70	61	200	261
„ 70 „ 80	82	162	244
„ 80 „ 90	22	37	59
„ 90 „ 98	1	6	7
	184	481	665 or 31 per cent.
Under 50 .....	....	....	991 „ 46·2 „
Children .....	....	....	490 „ 22·8 „
			2,146

Cheltenham.—Causes of Death, 1853-2—1855-6.

	Deaths—684.				Deaths—828.				Deaths—707.				Deaths—718.			
	Under 5 Years.		Above 5 Years.		Under 5 Years.		Above 5 Years.		Under 5 Years.		Above 5 Years.		Under 5 Years.		Above 5 Years.	
	1856-55.		1856-55.		1855-54.		1855-54.		1854-53.		1854-53.		1853-52.		1853-52.	
	Per Cent.	Per Cent.	Per Cent.	Per Cent.	Per Cent.	Per Cent.	Per Cent.	Per Cent.	Per Cent.	Per Cent.	Per Cent.	Per Cent.	Per Cent.	Per Cent.	Per Cent.	Per Cent.
ZYMOTIC.																
Epidemic, Endemic, and Contagious																
Fever	31	4·24	12	1·75	72	8·69	15	1·81	29	4·10	17	2·40	53	7·38	30	4·17
Small Pox	2	0·29	7	1·02	6	0·72	19	2·30	9	1·27	20	2·68	10	1·39	30	4·17
Measles	3	...	...	...	29	...	...	...	1	...	1	...	10	...	6	...
Scarlatina	4	...	3	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	3	...	21	...	...	...
SPORADIC.—Variable.																
Nervous System	100	14·62	61	8·91	103	12·44	60	7·24	84	11·88	64	9·05	92	12·31	66	9·19
Debility, Convulsions, &c.																
Hydrocephalus, &c.																
Circulatory, Heart, &c.	2	0·29	44	6·43	...	...	30	3·62	2	0·28	40	5·65	1	0·13	28	3·89
Respiratory	43	6·20	155	22·66	55	6·61	210	25·36	41	5·79	140	19·80	39	5·43	149	20·75
Reproductive .....	...	...	21	3·07	...	...	7	0·84	...	...	14	1·98	...	...	6	0·83
Child-birth .....	...	...	30	0·29	...	...	2	0·24	...	...	...	...	...	...	3	0·41
Digestive	14	2·04	30	4·38	20	2·41	41	4·95	18	2·54	44	6·22	11	1·53	45	6·26
Old Age—	...	...	195	28·50	...	...	164	19·80	...	...	167	23·62	...	...	170	23·67
between 65 and 95....																
Accidental and Violence	3	0·43	7	1·02	...	...	13	1·57	4	0·57	8	1·13	1	0·14	9	1·26
Neglect	3	0·43	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Natural or no cause.....	7	1·02	16	2·34	14	1·69	30	3·62	10	1·41	16	2·26	6	0·83	17	2·36

Note.—In all England Zymotic Diseases produce 21 per cent. of deaths, (while in Cheltenham deaths from these diseases average 6·10 per cent. under 5 years, and 2·53 per cent. above 5 years); Nervous System, 12·6 per cent. of deaths; Respiratory Organs, 13·6 per cent.; Consumption being added, 26·9 per cent.

The large number of deaths during infancy as exhibited to the eye by this table marks in the strongest manner the lamentable amount of ignorance which continues to prevail amongst females on the vital subject of *physiology*.

High and low, rich and poor, are alike amenable to those laws which govern our physical nature, and here we find, out of an average of 732 deaths, 146 on an average perish before they attain 1 year, or 20 per cent., while of those who never reach 5 years, about *one-third* perish.

Mode of forming the Table of Disease.

A large sheet of paper was divided into nineteen columns. In the first was entered all the names of diseases likely to have been registered, then followed a column for every year up to 5 years; after which a column for every 5 and 10 years up to 95 years and upwards.

With this sheet before me the Registrar's deputy turned to the year and month, called out the name of the disease, then the age, and lastly the sex. A little experience enabled me to enter (*m*) for male, and (*f*) for female, in the columns of the different ages, without any sensible loss of time.

The following example will render this plain:—

DISEASES.	1856.		1855.										1856.		1855.									
	February.	January.	December.	November.	October.	September.	August.	July.	June.	May.	April.	March.	February.	January.	December.	November.	October.	September.	August.	July.	June.	May.	April.	March.
Sporadic ..																								
Nervous ...																								
	Under 1 Year.												Under 2 Years.											
Debility ...	<i>m</i> <i>f</i>	<i>m</i> <i>ff</i>	<i>m</i> <i>m</i> <i>m</i> <i>m</i>	<i>f</i>	<i>m</i> <i>m</i> <i>f</i>	<i>m</i> <i>m</i> <i>f</i>	<i>f</i>	<i>m</i> <i>m</i>	<i>f</i>	<i>m</i> <i>m</i> <i>m</i> <i>fff</i>	<i>m</i> <i>m</i>	<i>m</i> <i>f</i>												
Convulsions	<i>m</i> <i>m</i> <i>ff</i> <i>m</i>	<i>f</i>	<i>m</i> <i>f</i>	<i>m</i>	<i>m</i>	<i>f</i> <i>f</i>	<i>m</i> <i>f</i>	<i>m</i> <i>m</i> <i>m</i> <i>ff</i>	<i>m</i> <i>f</i>	<i>ff</i> <i>f</i>	<i>f</i> <i>m</i>													

The seventh column contained the total number of deaths under 5 years, and the last column the number between 5 and 95.

That such a table applied to the various localities of the kingdom would confer considerable benefit, every medical man who has favoured me with an opinion seems willing to admit; and I would therefore respectfully suggest its adoption to the Registrar-General:

Affections of the chest and lungs give 22 per cent. (chiefly between the ages of 15 and 35,) while old age had the largest share, or 23·9 per cent., including all between 65 and 95. The large proportion of lung affections may be accounted for by the fact of many persons, subject to those diseases, selecting Cheltenham as a place of residence in consequence of the great equality of its temperature. The highly favourable sanatory condition of the town is also much aided by the efforts of the local authorities to afford an ample supply of wholesome water, and to procure an efficient drainage. Reservoirs capable of containing 2,574,900 cubic feet of water, have been formed at a cost of 70,000*l.*, and which are now being extended so far as to be capable of storing 40,000,000 gallons of the finest water; while upwards of 26 miles of sewers have been constructed through the various parts of the town.

Although not supported by that great manufacturing industry, or those vast commercial resources which have imparted so great an impetus to the increase of population in such towns as Manchester, Liverpool, or Cardiff, Cheltenham has, nevertheless, far outstripped these towns in the comparative rate of increase, and affords a remarkable exception to the golden rule of this country, where wealth is sought with greater avidity than health, and the excitements of commerce are in general more esteemed than salubrity of climate.

Inhabitants of Cheltenham, 1801-51.

MALES.						
Years	1801.	1811.	1821.	1831.	1841.	1851.
Population	1,405	3,780	6,088	10,053	13,404	14,690
FEMALES.						
Population	1,671	4,545	7,308	12,889	18,007	20,361
Excess of Females over Males.....	266	765	1,220	2,836	4,603	5,671

Ratio Per Cent. to Total on Population of 1851.

Males.....	41·91	} nearly as 3 to 4.
Females	58·09	
<hr/>		
100·00		

Census Tables, Division VI., p. 29.

Population in 1841.....	31,411	} = 1 in 44·11.
Deaths ,,	712	
Population in 1851.....	35,051	} = 1 in 48·75.
Deaths ,,	719	

Table showing the Population of the undermentioned Parishes at each Census from 1801 to 1851, inclusive, with the Increase of Population in each Parish at every period of 10 years, and at the end of 50 years.

Names of the Parishes.	Population in						As compared with 1801, 1811, 1821, 1831, 1841,					Increase in 50 Years, ending 1851.
	1801.	1811.	1821.	1831.	1841.	1851.	1811.	1821.	1831.	1841.	1851.	
Cheltenham	3,076	8,325	13,396	22,942	31,411	35,051	5,249	5,071	9,546	8,469	3,640	31,975
Liverpool	77,653	94,376	118,972	165,175	223,003	258,236	16,723	24,596	46,203	57,828	35,233	180,583
Manchester	112,300	136,370	187,031	270,963	353,390	452,158	24,070	50,661	83,932	82,427	98,768	339,858
Leamington Priors	315	545	2,183	6,209	12,864	15,724	230	1,638	4,026	6,655	2,860	15,409
Cardiff	1,870	2,457	3,521	6,187	10,077	18,351	587	1,064	2,666	3,890	8,274	16,481

Table of the Increase Per Cent. in the Population of each of the Five Censuses ending with 1851, with the Average Decennial and Average Annual Increase Per Cent. in the 50 years ending 1851.

Names of the Parishes.	As compared with 1801, 1811, 1821, 1831, 1841,						Average Increase Per Cent. at each Census, 1811—51.		Increase Per Cent. on the 50 Years ending with 1851.		Average Annual Increase Per Cent. in 50 Years ending 1851.	
	1811.	1821.	1831.	1841.	1851.	1851.	1851.		1851.		1851.	
Cheltenham	170·64	60·91	71·26	36·91	11·59	1851.	70·26		1039·50		20·79	
Liverpool	21·54	26·06	38·83	35·01	15·80	1851.	27·45		232·55		4·65	
Manchester	21·43	37·14	44·88	30·42	27·95	1851.	32·36		302·63		6·05	
Leamington Priors	73·01	300·55	184·42	107·18	22·33	1851.	137·48		4891·74		97·83	
Cardiff	31·39	43·30	75·72	62·87	82·10	1851.	59·07		881·33		17·63	

Date.	Births.		Total.	Deaths.		Total.	Marriages.	Average Price of Wheat Per Quarter.	
	Males.	Females.		Males.	Females.			s.	d.
1838....	372	399	771	336	373	709	268	53	3
1839....	455	395	850	298	294	592	273	69	4
1840....	471	447	918	349	328	677	283	68	6
1841....	456	435	891	355	357	712	274	65	3
1842....	497	486	983	406	422	828	279	64	0
1843....	505	444	949	399	345	674	286	54	4
1844....	472	507	979	329	320	649	319	52	5
1845....	495	458	953	305	353	658	308	49	2
1846....	491	404	995	305	364	669	294	53	3
1847....	448	407	855	340	360	700	271	59	0
1848....	465	460	925	327	325	652	266	64	6
1849....	492	446	938	308	356	664	289	49	1
1850....	425	403	928	314	333	647	308	42	7
1851....	445	484	929	325	394	719	291	39	11
1852....	453	424	977	347	352	699	297	39	4
1853....	433	422	855	334	364	698	332	42	0
1854....	455	426	881	375	431	806	314	61	7
1855....	455	426	881	341	386	727	258	70	0½
Total	8,285	7,073	16,258	6,022	6,457	12,480	5,210		
Yrly. Avg	460	443	903	334	359	693	693		

Average annual excess of Births over Deaths 210, or 30·3 per cent.

Births in Cheltenham, 1838-55.

	Total 18 Years.			Average.		
	Males.	Females.	Total.	Males.	Females.	Total.
<i>Spring.</i>						
March	743	724	1,467	41·3	40·2	81·5
April	727	703	1,430	40·4	39·0	79·4
May	723	696	1,419	40·1	38·7	78·8
	2,193	2,123	4,316	121·8	117·9	239·7
<i>Summer.</i>						
June	660	623	1,283	36·7	34·6	71·3
July	684	648	1,332	38·0	36·0	74·0
August	647	630	1,227	35·9	35·0	70·9
	1,991	1,901	3,892	110·6	105·6	216·2
<i>Autumn.</i>						
September	603	581	1,184	33·5	32·3	65·8
October	702	667	1,369	39·0	37·1	76·1
November	623	618	1,241	34·6	34·3	68·9
	1,928	1,806	3,794	107·1	103·7	210·8
<i>Winter.</i>						
December	681	660	1,341	37·8	36·7	74·5
January	720	718	1,438	40·0	39·9	79·9
February	760	712	1,472	42·2	39·5	81·7
	2,161	2,090	4,251	20·0	116·1	236·1

Deaths in Cheltenham, 1838-55.

	Total 18 Years.			Average.		
	Males.	Females.	Total.	Malcs.	Females.	Total.
<i>Spring.</i>						
March	576	666	1,242	33·9	39·1	73·0
April	474	492	966	27·9	29·0	56·9
May	465	517	982	27·3	30·4	57·7
	1,515	1,675	3,190	89·1	98·5	187·6
<i>Summer.</i>						
June	455	443	893	26·8	26·0	52·8
July	344	393	737	20·2	23·1	43·3
August	398	416	814	23·4	24·5	47·9
	1,197	1,252	2,449	70·4	73·6	144·0
<i>Autumn.</i>						
September	447	483	930	26·3	28·4	54·7
October	423	397	820	24·9	23·4	48·3
November	462	477	939	27·2	28·0	55·2
	1,332	1,357	2,689	78·4	79·8	158·2
<i>Winter.</i>						
December	581	646	1,227	34·2	38·0	72·2
January	549	628	1,177	32·3	36·9	69·2
February	532	532	1,064	31·3	31·3	62·6
	1,662	1,806	3,468	97·8	106·2	204·0

The value of property in Cheltenham has also undergone great change. We find that the manor, which was purchased from Charles Prince of Wales by the ancestors of Lord Sherborne, in 1618, for 1,200*l.*, cost the present proprietors, in 1843, a sum of 39,000*l.*

Cheltenham Union, 1853-4.

[From a Parliamentary Return, published in August, 1854.]

Rateable Value of Property Assessed to Poor Rates, year ending 25th March, 1852.	Names of the Parishes in the Union.	Area in Statute Acres.	Population in 1851.	Value Rateable.
<i>£</i>				<i>£</i>
5,363	Badgworth	3,064	874	4,800
12,080	Charlton Kings	4,000	3,173	10,786
174,169	Cheltenham	4,200	35,051	160,000
1,787	Cowley	1,868	315	1,818
2,553	Cubberley	3,354	243	2,732
1,202	Great Witcombe	806	167	1,233
8,336	Leckhampton	1,551	2,149	8,122
7,830	Prestbury	2,378	1,315	7,673
852	Shurdington	379	173	950
1,309	Staverton	680	278	1,368
2,269	Swindon	700	221	2,070
1,472	Uckington	800	173	1,479
442	Uphatherly	523	50	457
219,670	Totals.....	24,303	44,182	203,488

With the increase of population and of wealth the town received a still larger proportionate increase of accommodation for religious worship. In 1821 we find that with a population of 13,388 the only church was that of St. Mary's, with accommodation for 1,500 persons, and chapels with accommodation for 200, or, together, for about 26 $\frac{1}{4}$ per cent. of the population. The following table, taken from the Census Returns of 1851, shows the improved condition of the town as to religious worship, with a population of 35,051:—

Places of Worship.	Number.	Number of Sitzings.			Ratio of Sitzings to Population.	
		Free.	Appropriated.	Total.		
Church of England....	8	3,393	7,457	10,855	10,855	31 per cent.
Independents	4	680	1,350	2,030		
Particular Baptists	3	800	1,400	2,200		
Baptists	1	100	....	100		
Society of Friends	1	100	....	100		
Unitarians	1	300	....	300		
Wesleyan Methodist..	4	489	926	1,415		
Wesleyan Association	2	130	110	240		
Lady Huntingdon's....	1	200	550	750		
Roman Catholics.....	1	100	260	360	1,075	
Latter-day Saints	1	630	....	630		
Jews.....	1	15	70	85		
Total Number of Sitzings in all Places of Worship					19,065	Average 54 $\frac{1}{4}$
Of which the Free Sitzings in the Church of England form, on the } total number of its Sitzings.....						31 $\frac{1}{4}$
While the Appropriated Sitzings form						68 $\frac{3}{4}$
Dissenting Places of Worship, Free Sitzings.....						39 $\frac{3}{4}$
Appropriated						60 $\frac{3}{4}$
Roman Catholics, Free Sitzings						27 $\frac{3}{4}$
Appropriated						72 $\frac{1}{4}$

Whence it would appear that the Dissenters afford 8 per cent. greater amount of free accommodation to their congregations than is afforded by the Church of England, and upwards of 11 per cent. more than by the Roman Catholics. Since the period of this enumeration another church has been added to the Establishment, with accommodation for 1,000 persons, and two yet larger places of worship to the Dissenting congregation, giving a total present accommodation for 22,265 persons. Supposing the population to have increased to 37,000, there would thus be accommodation for 60·17 per cent. of the inhabitants, an amount which will bear comparison with that afforded by any town in the United Kingdom.

The exertions, great as they have been, to increase the amount of accommodation for religious worship, are surpassed, perhaps, by those made to secure an improved order of secular instruction. Up to 1833, the whole of what had been accomplished in the work of popular education, says, Mr. Horace Mann, in his Census Report for

1854, was the fruit of private liberality. In 1833 the Government first afforded assistance in the shape of an annual grant of 20,000*l.*: from 1839 to 1841 this sum was increased to 30,000*l.*; in 1842-43-44 it was 40,000*l.*; in 1845, 75,000*l.*; 1846 and 1847, 100,000*l.*; 1848-49-50, 125,000*l.*; in 1851-52, 150,000*l.*; and in 1853 it was 260,000*l.* It is manifest with what difficulty it has been admitted that ignorance is a fertile source of crime; but from the year 1839 a more liberal and enlightened spirit has prevailed, and Cheltenham now receives an amount of Government encouragement which, sixteen years ago, was deemed sufficient for the whole kingdom.

The earliest effort to extend the blessings of education in this town, of which we find any record, is the Grammar School, founded and endowed by Richard Pate, of Minsterworth, who appointed as Patrons, or Trustees, the Master and seven senior Fellows of Corpus Christi College, Oxford. Queen Elizabeth having, however, granted certain lands for the foundation of the school and a hospital, is therefore styled the foundress. The value of the endowments is estimated at about 2,000*l.* per annum, but a portion of this is allocated to the Almshouse, and another portion towards the support of a Divinity Scholarship at Corpus Christi College, Oxford. For many years this valuable endowment was neglected, unproductive, and mismanaged, until Mr. Thomas Henry undertook to inquire into its condition. After an appeal to the Court of Chancery, it was found that the property was worth 2,250*l.* per annum. In 1851 the school was re-established; and so successful have been the labours of the present learned and energetic Head Master, Dr. Humphreys, LL.D., that in the course of five years it has been placed in as high a position as any in the kingdom. There are 293 pupils: the expenditure on the Head Master's establishment being upwards of 3,000*l.* per annum, while the income derived from day scholars is not less than 1,300*l.* per annum; and the general expenditure in the boarding school 4,000*l.* per annum.

The Cheltenham Proprietary College was commenced in 1841, and the schools opened in 1843, the object being to enable the sons of gentlemen, as contradistinguished from tradesmen, to receive the highest order of religious, classical, mathematical, and general instruction. The shares in this college were originally limited to 200; the present number is 600. The value of each share, originally 20*l.*, has now risen to 100*l.*, and there is a great and still increasing demand for them. Each share qualifies its owner for the nomination of one pupil. The salaries paid to the masters of this college fall little short of 10,000*l.* per annum, while it expends directly upwards of 16,000*l.* per annum in the town. The success which has attended this institution is little inferior to that of our older and long-prized establishments, and it forms an important element in the progress and prosperity of Cheltenham.

In consequence of the great success which attended the establishment of a Proprietary College for young gentlemen, a similar institution has been established for Young Ladies, which was carried into operation in February, 1854. In this ladies' college it has been sought to afford sound instruction, without the sacrifice of the modesty and gentleness of the female character, or the neglect of

those accomplishments so necessary to the educated lady. In December, 1854, the number of regular pupils was 108, and of students attending particular classes 115. In December, 1855, the number of regular pupils was 125. The expenses of the establishment amounted, in 1855, to 2,240*l.* 6*s.* 6*d.*

An establishment of a similar character, for the daughters and relatives of those moving in the middle walks of life, is the "St. Margaret's Ladies' College," where a valuable useful education is obtained for sums varying from two guineas to six guineas per annum. There is also an Infant Department, the numbers in which are limited to 40, and where the terms are from two guineas to two and a-half guineas per annum. This establishment promises to confer a large amount of practical benefit on the town.

To promote real civilization, we now know that the humbler classes of society must be elevated in the intellectual and moral scale, and it is further admitted that, to accomplish this, teachers must themselves be taught, and parents must obtain a higher standard by which to estimate the value of those to whom their children are confided.

The candid admission of the poor schoolmistress sufficiently indicates the degradation into which both teacher and pupil had sunk. "It is little they pays me, and it is but little I teaches them."

The results of the labours of Bell, Lankester, Raikes, and Wilderspin, are only now, after the lapse of half a century, beginning to be applied. The Educational Census of 1851 supplies some important illustrations on this head.

	Number in Day Schools relative to the Population.		Number in Sunday Schools.
1818.....	1 in 17·25	.....	1 in 24·10
1833.....	1 in 11·97	.....	1 in 9·28
1851.....	1 in 8·36	.....	1 in 7·45
Cheltenham 1855.....	1 in 6		

We thus find that in thirty-three years the number of day scholars had more than doubled, and of Sunday schools more than trebled in proportion to the population; nor is this all, the character of instruction is entirely changed. Government has begun to recognise a truth which, to reflecting minds, had long been obvious, that where it is its duty to punish, it is also its duty to instruct.

The monitorial system, the origin of which gave rise to so long and bitter a controversy between the presumed latitudinarianism of Lankester and the high churchism of Bell, have been found inadequate to fulfil requirements of a more advanced age. The Government of the country resolved to adopt the system of paid teachers, who should receive the best order of instruction, and be subjected to rigid and practical examinations before they should undertake the responsibility of instructing others. Not long after the "Minutes of Council" were promulgated, some enlightened inhabitants, aided by the eloquence and zeal of the incumbent of the parish, Rev. F. Close, and Rev. C. H. Bromby, the learned Principal, raised, in eighteen months, the sum of 9,000*l.* to establish the Church of England Training College. In 1849 Lord Ashley laid the foundation stone of

this valuable and important institution, based upon the axiom that "Teaching, we learn; giving, we receive." The building with its necessities involved an outlay of 13,000*l.*, and the annual expenditure of the establishment cannot be estimated at less than 5,000*l.*; in the last year 5,947*l.* 9*s.* 4*d.* Supplementary to the accommodation afforded by this building, and as the funds did not permit of further increase, premises in the High Street, now known as St. Mary's Hall, were taken at an annual outlay of 300*l.* for rent, taxes, and insurance, for the training of female teachers. According to the financial table, 1856, of the Committee of Council on Education Government Report, there were admitted, up to the 25th of April, 1855, 692 pupils, of whom there were presented for examination to Her Majesty's Inspector, 474; 43 obtained certificates of the first class, 100 of the second class, 149 of the third class.

The number appointed to the charge of schools have been—males, 326; females, 285; now in the establishment, 90 males, 69 females; of whom there are 70 male and 20 female Queen's scholars; 8 have obtained certificates of the first class, 11 of the second, 22 of the third.

During the period of apprenticeship salaries are granted from 10*l.* to 20*l.* per annum.

Table XII. supplies a statement of the grants awarded at the Training College for males on account of students holding certificates of merit from 1847 to 1855, together with an account of Queen's scholars admitted after examination.

Training College, Cheltenham.

Number of Candidates.			Amount of Grant.			Number of Queen's Scholars.			Amount of Grant.		
			£	s.	d.				£	s.	d.
1849	Males....	222	4,664	—	—	194			4,370	—	—
to											
1854	Females	129	1,719	6	8	101			1,493	6	8
		351	6,383	6	8				5,863	6	8
1855	Males....	93	1,582	10	—	85			1,780	—	—
	Females	56	619	6	8	50			733	6	8
		149							2,513	6	8

Number of Students.	Total Expense of Housekeeping.	Cost per Head.	Expenses of Tuition.	Cost per Head.	Total Cost per Head.
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
149	2,651 14 10	17 15 11	2,433 4 6	16 6 7	34 2 6

The numbers who have abandoned the profession of teaching to follow other professions in the seven years is 41, or 6 per cent., and from failure in health or death is 14, or 2 per cent.

At first sight 6 per cent. might seem a large number to be deducted from the specific object for which the establishment was

formed; but when it is remembered how inefficient have been the attainments of those presenting themselves for examination to fill Government offices, it may be a matter of gratulation that these Training Colleges shall become the instruments of affording to society generally so many useful and valuable servants.

In connection with the Training College are what are called "Practising Schools," in which the pupils of the college have the means of testing their acquirements, under the immediate supervision of the Reverend and enlightened Principal, Mr. Bromby.

Towards the expenses of these establishments, Government has granted 1,000*l.*; it has further paid on account of certified teachers 370*l.*, and on account of pupil teachers 1,233*l.* The boys' school is divided into two classes, one for the children of small tradesmen, numbering 70; the other for those of working-men, numbering 100; while there is a girls' school, numbering 120 pupils. Although the philanthropist must rejoice at the many and great exertions which are being made to elevate the lower classes, yet there appears to be something still to be desired in the nature of the instruction by which teachers are prepared, at considerable cost, to meet the requirements of the poorer classes. The great number of human beings in this country, who are condemned to occupations into which the mind is scarcely called upon to enter, still require to know the relation which subsists between themselves and the external world in which they are placed. They require to understand household economy, the properties of various food, the best mode of preparing that food, the qualities of clothing, and so on. The question then is, are such things taught, and are teachers in a condition to teach them?

Of the schools for the benefit of the poor, the most ancient is the Old Charity School, which owes its origin to a bequest made by George Townsend, Esq., of Narnington, in 1683; but it was not opened until 1713. This, like most of the other endowed schools of the country, was, for many years, abused, mismanaged, and neglected, until, principally through the exertions of Mr. Richardson, the Rev. incumbent of Cheltenham, and others, the present commodious school room and master's residence were erected in 1847. The present number of boys in attendance is 150, none being retained after thirteen years of age.

The Bath Road National Schools number at present 55 boys, and 90 girls, and they promise a speedy return to that position which was once accorded to them under the active superintendence of the present incumbent of St. Luke's, the Rev. W. F. Handcock.

The British Schools were established in connection with the British and Foreign School Society, in 1821. For some years it commanded a large attendance of pupils, being the only public school in the town not connected with the Established Church. Upon the opening of the Highbury Schools, in 1841, and the Wesleyan School, in 1851, it declined in importance, but of late years has again improved, and now numbers some 90 regular attendants.

The following table shows, at one view, the condition of the Schools connected with the various churches and chapels in the town:—

CHELTHENHAM :—	Number of Schools.	Males.	Females.	Total.
Public Day Schools	34	2,291	1,903	4,194
Private Day Schools	79	1,012	601	1,613
				5,807
CLASS FIRST.				
Workhouse Schools	1	45	75	120
CLASS SECOND.				
Collegiate and Grammar Schools	1	292	....	292
CLASS THIRD.				
<i>Denominational.</i>				
Church of England National	4	303	295	598
Church of England others	20	1,266	1,066	2,332
Independents.....	1	171	140	311
Unitarians	1	9	10	19
Wesleyan Methodists	2	100	72	172
Roman Catholics	1	52	55	107
<i>Undenominational.</i>				
British	1	230	121	351
CLASS FOURTH.				
Orphan School	1	....	38	38
Ragged Schools (exclusive of those supported by religious bodies)	1	65	51	116
	147	5,836	4,427	10,263

Since the year 1846, when the Government undertook the supervision of Workhouse Schools, those attached to the Cheltenham Union Workhouse have largely benefited by the new order of things. The average weekly number of pupils is 109, and comprehends the paupers from fourteen parishes. The boys are taught shoemaking, tailoring, and the labours of a farm, (by means of a portion of land attached to the workhouse); while the girls are taught needle-work in addition to their ordinary instruction. The separation of the notoriously vicious from those who are as yet unsullied by crime, is, however, absolutely necessary; and the guardians can hardly rest satisfied with the present classification of the paupers.

The Sunday Schools take their rise from the philanthropic spirit of Mr. Robert Raikes, of Gloucester, in 1783; and, notwithstanding the violent opposition which they at first encountered, this system has now extended itself over the whole of the United Kingdom, the greater portion of the United States, Canada, and our colonies. A surgeon, R.N., has recently stated ("England's Exiles,") that out of 900 convicts only 7 had been at a Sunday School, about $\frac{3}{4}$ per cent. Mr. A. Brown, R.N., also states, that out of 1,065 prisoners, whom he took out to our penal colonies, 14 only had ever been in a Sunday School, or $\frac{1}{4}$ per cent.; and the Rev. J. Clay, Chaplain to the House of Correction at Preston, states that out of 1,129 committed to that prison, only 1 was familiar with the Holy Scriptures, and that not above 20 had ever been in the habit of attending a place of worship.

That Cheltenham has not been behind hand in recognizing the value of Sunday School instructions, is evident from the fact that to each church and chapel in the town a school is attached.

In the Government returns of 1854 the following are enumerated :

Sunday Schools.—Cheltenham, 1854.

	Number of Schools.	Males.	Females.	Total,
Church of England	20	936	1,223	2,159
Independents.....	3	266	349	615
Baptists	4	197	200	397
Unitarians	1	26	21	47
Wesleyan Methodists	4	263	280	543
Wesleyan Methodist Association	2	33	56	89
Lady Huntingdon's Connexion ...	2	97	75	172
Undefined Protestant Congrega- tions.....	1	18	20	38
Roman Catholics	1	52	55	107

For the establishment of its first Infant Schools the town is indebted to Mr. Wilderspin, whose views were clearer, broader, and more practical than those of either Bell or Lankester. The first Infant School, that of St. Mary's, was, for many years, under the immediate superintendence of Mr. Wilderspin and his daughter.

In 1849 a Ragged School was opened in the High Street, especially promoted by Mrs. Guinness; the admissions were limited to boys of seven years of age, but open to girls of all ages. The annual income scarcely exceeds 60*l.*, and, at present, according to the Registrar-General's Report, 1851, the numbers are 150. A regular trained teacher, of large and varied experience, Miss Liddiard, conducts the school with acknowledged success.

That these schools promise to render a large measure of moral benefit to the community, has been strongly shown by Mr. Lee Thornton, in his interesting and instructive letter to H.M. Inspector of Schools, the Rev. H. W. Bellairs, where he gives the following lists of imprisonments of children attending the Ragged Schools in Bristol:—

Year	1847.	1848.	1849	1850.	1851.	1852.	1853.	1854.	1855.
Imprisoned	12	19	26	9	1	1	....	1	....

Whence it appears that the *diminution* of the average annual number imprisoned attending those schools numbering 750 was upwards of 96 per cent. in six years.

By the exertions of some philanthropic gentlemen, schools for Adult males and females have been opened, and two rooms have been obtained, where, after the hours of labour, from 7 to 9 o'clock, P.M., about 100 men and youths, and 75 females, are instructed, without subjecting them to the painful contrast which their appearance at a juvenile school would occasion. It appears that from 40 to 50 of these adults come, in many instances, from the neighbouring villages during the dark winter evenings; and many, formerly only able to put together a few letters, are now able to read the Testament, and take a delight in so doing. Such an institution as this deserves not

only the support of individuals, but the fostering care of Government. It is beginning at the right end, and brings the parent into sympathy with the child, whose mind is sought to be influenced by the instruction of a well-organized school, in place of permitting the latter to return to a rude semi-barbarous home.

I cannot close my notice of the educational establishments of the town without reference to the Cheltenham Literary and Scientific Institution, established in 1833, under the auspices of Sir George Whitmore, the first President: he was succeeded by the late Dr. Boisragon, one of the ablest, most accomplished, and most successful physicians that Cheltenham has ever known, and a gentleman to whom the town is indebted for some of its early and important improvements. The object of the Literary and Scientific Institution appears, hitherto, to have been principally to provide lecturers for the intellectual improvement of its members; but it may be hoped that the present Meeting of the British Association will give a new and abiding interest to its movements, and permit it to take up a position amongst the scientific institutions of the country.

The Female Orphan Asylum was founded, in 1806, by Mrs. Williams, a lady employed by the late Queen Charlotte to dispense many of her valuable charities, and who superintended this establishment for sixteen years. It is supported partly by the bequests of some philanthropic individuals, and partly by voluntary subscriptions. Its design is to board, lodge, clothe, and educate destitute female orphans legitimately born, and in good health; and most successful has been its operation. All the clothing of the inmates is made in the establishment, the produce of the needle-work, amounting to about 30*l.*, is applied to the maintenance account. Only four of these orphans have died in the establishment in the course of the past twenty-five years. At the proper age the girls obtain situations as lady's maids, nurses, &c., &c., and, upon leaving the institution, each is supplied with a complete outfit. The fixed number of inmates is 40, who are maintained at an average cost of 16*l.* 5*s.* per head.

The School of Art is supported entirely by voluntary subscriptions, no assistance being as yet afforded by Government, although a Government Inspector, on a visit to the school last year, was enabled to make 26 awards of merit, and to present 10 medals. The average monthly attendance at the central school is 128, and, with the other schools in the town, the total number of students is 1,250, sufficient to warrant the consideration and support of Government.

In the year 1813 a Dispensary was established in Cheltenham, under the auspices of Lord Ashtown, and we find that in 1839 it was capable of containing 45 patients. In 1849, however, the present General Hospital was erected at a cost of 8,800*l.*, with capability of accommodating 90 patients. In 1850 a branch for out-patients was established in Oxford Passage. The following tables will exhibit the operations of these valuable establishments for the last seven years:—

1857.]

Town and Parish of Cheltenham.

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In-Patients.—Cheltenham General Hospital and Dispensary, 1849-55.

In-Patients.			Cured.	Died.	Relieved.	Incurable.	Insane.	Days' Average in Hospital.	Average No. of Days each.	Per cent. Cured.	Per cent. Died.
1849	{Remaining 42 Admitted 331}	373	246	18	41	6	1	40	38	65·9	5·0
1850	{Remaining 46 Admitted 382}	428	308	20	38	5	2	42	35	72·0	4·7
1851	{Remaining 43 Admitted 378}	421	273	21	55	3	2	45	30	64·8	5·0
1852	{Remaining 43 Admitted 392}	435	355	20	72	5	2	42	35	81·6	4·6
1853	{Remaining 49 Admitted 406}	455	270	24	71	10	2	41	33½	59·3	5·3
1854	{Remaining 52 Admitted 430}	482	294	28	75	3	2	47	35	61·0	5·8
1855	{Remaining 53 Admitted 457}	510	294	21	98	5	1	56	39¾	57·6	4·1
Mean										462·2	34·5
										66·0	4·9

Out-Patients.—General Hospital and Dispensary, 1849-55.

Out-Patients.	Cured.	Sup-posed Cured.	Total.	Died.	Re- lieved.	Per cent. Cured.	Per cent. Died.
1849 {Admitted 2,846 Casualties 220} 3,066	1,131	1,706	2,837	42	29	36·9	1·4
1850 {Admitted 3,428 Casualties 237} 3,665	1,270	2,020	3,290	71	79	37·6	1·9
1851 {Admitted 3,871 Casualties 156} 4,027	1,372	2,228	3,600	78	151	34·1	1·9
1852 {Admitted 3,861 Casualties 190} 4,051	1,474	2,010	3,484	86	246	36·4	2·2
1853 {Admitted 3,681 Casualties 219} 3,900	1,697	1,547	3,244	87	317	43·5	2·2
1854 {Admitted 3,984 Casualties 263} 4,247	1,982	1,571	3,553	92	324	46·7	2·2
1855 {Admitted 3,641 Casualties 225} 3,866	1,806	1,257	3,063	60	512	46·7	1·6
					Mean	40·3	1·9

The Loan Fund is another institution showing the benevolent spirit of the wealthier classes. The amount of the fund originally subscribed was 518*l*. During the twenty years ending December, 1855, the total sum lent has been 37,175*l*. 10*s*., in sums varying from 1*l*. to 10*l*., and the loss by bad debts during the whole of that period has been only 58*l*. 19*s*. 6*d*. The securities must be housekeepers, but as nearly as possible of the same grade as the borrowers. Interest paid is 6*d*. in the pound, and repayments 1*s*. in the pound per week.

The following statement speaks for itself. For a long time there existed an impression on the minds of many well-informed persons, that, however much wealth continued to be accumulated in this country, it was always in the hands of those who were already rich, leaving the poor still poorer, and hence arose a feeling of discontent amongst the mass of the people, highly injurious to social progress. But here, as on so many other important subjects, statistics steps in with its incontrovertible data, to place the question in its true light. In Cheltenham we see that more than one-half of the depositors belong to the humbler class. The value of these institutions may be farther estimated when we examine into the increase per head of the deposits in the United Kingdom in proportion to the population, as supplied by the late Mr. G. R. Porter:—

			<i>s.</i>	<i>d.</i>
Un. King.	1831	they amounted to.....	12	8 per head.
"	1836	"	16	4 "
"	1841	"	19	10 "
"	1848	"	20	11 "
Cheltenham	1855	"	60	- "

Cheltenham Savings' Bank, (Established October 1, 1818.)—Return, 1855.

Per Cent.	Number of Depositors.		Total Amount of each Class.	
13·15	593	Whose respective balances on the 20th Nov., 1855, (including interest,) did not exceed £1 each	£	<i>s.</i> <i>d.</i>
			178	10 10
21·39	965	Above £1 and not exceeding.....	£5	2,397 5 6
13·84	624	" £5	£10	4,328 6 10
8·20	370	" £10	£15	4,449 11 7
6·12	276	" £15	£20	4,711 9 -
9·69	437	" £20	£30	10,539 14 7
7·45	336	" £30	£40	11,349 4 5
3·84	173	" £40	£50	7,783 6 7
6·52	294	" £50	£60	17,677 8 5
3·27	147	" £75	£100	12,533 10 3
2·28	103	" £100	£125	11,444 6 6
1·79	81	" £125	£175	10,949 14 4
2·46	111	" £150	£200	18,875 14 6
100·00	4,510	Total number of Depositors	117,218	3 4
	21	Charitable Societies	1,638	- -
	24	Friendly Societies.....	4,801	18 9
	4,555	Total number of accounts. Total balance	123,658	2 1
	Separate balances invested with the Commissioners on the Surplus Fund Account, on the 20th November, 1855, as per opposite side		929	1 7
			124,587	3 8

The rate of annual interest allowed to depositors is 2*l*. 18*s*. 4*d*. per cent.

The Provident Clothing and District Visiting Society is amongst the charitable institutions to which the ladies of Cheltenham humanely apply their pecuniary resources and personal attention. This society, established in 1827, gives employment to virtuous and struggling females, receives their weekly deposits of money in very small sums, and when the necessities of winter oblige them to withdraw any of their little store, 10 per cent. interest is added. A penny club also forms part of the society's scheme, to enable the poor needlewomen to purchase clothes from the shop on their own account. No woman is permitted to enjoy these advantages without an annual written recommendation from the clergyman of her district.

The Female Refuge was established in 1846, to receive those whose unhappy circumstances have led them astray; and there they can learn to appreciate the value of honest industry. In nine years this institution has received 92 individuals, of whom 20 are now inmates. The average expenses amount to 450*l.*, and it is supported entirely by voluntary subscriptions.

The Cobourg, or Lying-in Charity, is another of those institutions which has been originated for the relief of the struggling and suffering females of the town. It has existed for 38 years; and last year extended its bounty to 197 individuals, at a cost of 136*l.* It appears, however, from the recent report of this charity, that those unconnected with the town have taken advantage of this institution to locate themselves where they may be relieved from one of the severest penalties to which improvident marriages are subject.

Tables A and B,* kindly supplied to me by the chief constable, exhibit the state of Crime in Cheltenham from 1849 to 1855, to which I have appended the returns of Paupers relieved. It will be seen from the latter table that the numbers in the Cheltenham Union, and in the town of Cheltenham, average 5·4 of the population, and exceed the average for the whole country (which is 4·8 of the population), for the county of Gloucester (which is 5·3), for Manchester (5·1), and for Cardiff (4·9), and is only exceeded by that of Liverpool, which is 5·8.

Number of Paupers Relieved in all the Parishes of the Cheltenham Union during the week ended 30th June, 1856.

Total number of men, women, and children	2,488
Estimated population, 1856	46,320
Ratio per cent. of paupers relieved on the estimated } population	5·4

Cost of Pauperism in England and Wales.—(Vide 8th Annual Report of the Poor Law Board, p. 1.)

	£	
Year ended Lady-day, 1854	5,282,853	
" " 1855	5,890,041	
Increase in 1855 as compared with } 1854	607,188	Increase per cent. 11·3.
Rate per head on population, 1854.....	5 <i>s.</i> 8 <i>d.</i>	
" " 1855.....	6 <i>s.</i> 3 <i>d.</i>	

* See end of Paper.

Table of the Average Number of Paupers of all Classes (including Children) at one time in Receipt of Relief, in England and Wales.—(Vide 8th Annual Report of Poor-Law Board, p. 8.)

Years ended at Lady-day,	Estimated Population of England and Wales.	Total Paupers Relieved.	Ratio Per cent. of Paupers Relieved in the Total Population.	Average Price of Wheat per Quarter.
1850.....	17,765,000	1,008,700	5·7	<i>s. d.</i> 42 7
1851.....	17,927,600	941,315	5·3	39 11
1852.....	18,205,000	915,675	5·0	39 4
1853.....	18,402,000	886,362	4·8	42 —
1854.....	18,617,000	864,617	4·6	61 7
1855.....	18,840,000	897,686	4·8	70 — $\frac{1}{2}$

Cheltenham Union, 1851-55.

[Extract from Poor Rate Returns.]

Year ending 25th March.	Amount of Money Levied by Assessment.	Amount Expended in Relief of the Poor.	Authority whence the information is obtained.
	<i>£ s. d.</i>	<i>£ s. d.</i>	
1851.....	19,434 2 —	16,682 16 —	{ 4th Ann. Report of Poor Law Board, p. 48
1852.....	19,872 5 —	14,043 10 —	5th Annual Report, p. 46
1853.....	9,292 3 —	13,232 16 —	6th „ „ p. 98
1854.....	16,838 3 —	14,346 5 —	7th „ „ p. 56
1855.....	22,321 — —	15,405 16 —	8th „ „ p. 76

Consisting of Maintenance, Out-door Relief, Workhouse Loans repaid and interest thereon, and other expenses of or immediately connected with relief.

Cheltenham.—Children in the Workhouse, 1851-55.

Half-year ending Lady-day.	Average Weekly Number.			Authority whence the information is obtained.
	Boys.	Girls.	Total.	
1851.....	47	75	122	{ 4th Ann. Report of Poor Law Board, page 118
1852.....	54	98	152	5th Annual Report, p. 115
1853.....	45	57	102	6th „ „ p. 167
1834.....	57	44	101	7th „ „ p. 125
1855.....	61	48	109	8th „ „ p. 157

Cost of Poor Relief, &c., in the Cheltenham Union, 1851-55.

Population, year ending Lady-day, 1851, 44,182. Cost per head on the popln. of—

	<i>s.</i>	<i>d.</i>		<i>s.</i>	<i>d.</i>
1851.....	7	6½	1854.....	6	6
1852.....	6	4½	1855.....	6	11½
1853.....	5	11½			

<i>Average Weekly Number of Paupers of all Classes Relieved in Unions.</i>	Relieved in the Workhouse.	Relieved out of the Workhouse.
Year ending Lady-day, 1855	318	2,164
" " 1856	326	2,146
Weekly average in the two years....	322	2,155
Proportion Per Cent. of Paupers relieved	13·0	87·0

Total number of paupers 2,155 out, and 322 in, the workhouse; making 5·6 per cent. of the population.

It will be seen that in Cheltenham no heinous offence has been committed against the person since 1854, and no murder since 1849. In 1851-52 crime of all description appears to have sunk to its minimum. The total increase, however, from 1852 to 1855 was 32·73 per cent. In Vagrancy a remarkable and uniform diminution has taken place since 1849, amounting to 70·5 per cent., exhibiting, in a striking manner, the efficiency of the local authorities. In cases of assault and larceny, however, the increase has been considerable, and there exists little doubt, to my mind, but that, owing to the indiscriminate manner in which charity is administered in Cheltenham, vice and poverty are largely encouraged, the energies of the local authorities are paralyzed, and larceny and assault become, as we see, the inevitable result. From good authority I learn that Salisbury and Newbury, in which eleemosynary institutions exist in unusual number, present the same results.

That the sympathies of the wealthier classes should be brought into active exercise in our manufacturing towns, we may well understand, where large numbers must naturally be induced to flock to them in the hope of employment, and of obtaining remuneration for honest industry, but where, with the vicissitudes of trade, many are suddenly, from no fault of their own, deprived of a legitimate means of support. Not so with Cheltenham. A vast number of poor who locate themselves here, are tempted to do so, not with a hope of employment, but with a desire and intention of living in idleness, and of preying upon the wealthier classes, who, by indiscriminate donations—I must not call them charities—throw ultimately a most unfair, and often a very heavy burthen upon the struggling householder and tradesman. It is well known that lodgings for the poor vary in price, according to the impressibility of the ladies in the vicinity, and that certain marks on rails and posts convey to the initiated specific information as to the facility with which tales of ideal distress and sorrow are listened to and rewarded.

I cannot bring this paper to a close without noticing the philanthropic efforts which have been made by two gentlemen in this county, to rescue the greatly tempted children of poverty from a life of crime. To Mr. Barwick Lloyd Baker, of Hardwicke Court, (one of our Vice-Presidents,) and to his friend Mr. Bengough, is not only Cheltenham, but the country, indebted for their philanthropic efforts in the reformation of juvenile offenders. To have taken the initiative in this great work is no common merit; to find gentlemen who might command all that wealth and station can supply, patiently, fearlessly, yet benevolently, watching the struggle to throw off the moral poison which was fast corroding the fair inheritance of humanity in those children of sorrow, is a spectacle worthy of the highest admiration.

When it is understood that successful theft requires the concurrent dexterity of many hands, and, like all art, constant daily practice to secure efficiency,—that in the picking of a single pocket four and five individuals are sometimes engaged, and that 15s. to 20s. a week each may be the reward of such dexterity, we learn to estimate the immense importance of breaking up these combinations though at a cost considerably greater than is incurred in our Reformatory Establishments. But when that cost is shown to be considerably below the forced contribution to which society is subject by its own neglect, it is matter of astonishment that a single town or district in the country remains without its Reformatory.

Of 39 boys from Cheltenham under treatment at Hardwick Court, 7 have proved decidedly bad; 17 have done and are doing well; 15 the result uncertain.

The conclusions to which Capt. Baker's experience lead are—

1st. Opportunity is afforded to him whose moral tendencies are favourable, to break his connection with the really vicious.

2. The instructed thief is deprived of his opportunity of daily exercise in his art, whereby his chance of future success is reduced to a minimum, and he is, at the same time, made to feel that life has charms, and labour has sweets, which no amount of skill dishonestly exercised can obtain.

3rd, and lastly. The heavy reproach against society is (so far as boys are concerned, and why not girls?) removed,—that it punishes crime without providing any means by which to change the character of the criminal.

All honest men are interested in freeing the country from the heaviest curse to which a land can be subjected, and in arresting evils which, in a multitude of cases, are shown to be the direct result of inheritance—inheritor! that fertile source, not of crime only, but of all the marked distinctions in character; but which in our social relations has been practically almost entirely ignored.

I have thus endeavoured, however imperfectly, to bring before the Association the leading characteristics of Cheltenham, whether as regards its climate,—its sanitary provisions,—its health, disease, and mortality,—its religious, educational, and charitable institutions,—its wonderful increase,—its wealth, its poverty, and its crime; and I have ventured to deduce results which may have the effect of directing public attention more strongly than heretofore to some defects in its social system.

TABLE A.

Return of Offences committed in the Town of Cheltenham District, during the years 1849, 50, 51, 52, 53, 54, and 55.

	1849.	1850.	1851.	1852.	1853.	1854.	1855.
Murder	3	....	....	....	....	....	....
Assault, with intent to murder	1	2	1	3	1	5	....
Rape .....	....	....	....	3	2	1	1
Assault, with intent.....	1	2	....	....	2	....	1
Unnatural offences	2	....	1	....	....	....	....
Arson	1	....	....	....	1	1	....
Burglary	2	1	....	2	2	....	1
Housebreaking and Larceny	6	11	2	9	9	4	....
Highway robbery .....	....	4	2	2	3	3	....
Stealing from the person	16	28	28	19	34	78	19
Bigamy .....	....	....	....	1	....	....	9
Horse stealing.....	....	....	2	1	....	1	....
Sheep stealing.....	1	....	....	1	1	1	....
Larceny	143	183	200	259	322	334	329
Receivers of stolen goods	2	6	5	3	5	8	9
Uttering base coin	2	1	1	2	1	2	6
Embezzlement.....	3	1	1	4	1	1	6
Obtaining goods under false } pretences	5	5	6	8	1	2	3
Riot.....	....	....	....	....	1	....	....
Rescuing prisoners	2	1	3	2	2	1	3
Assaults on police	51	48	31	14	21	22	31
Indecently exposing person.....	1	4	2	2	3	1	....
Deserters.....	2	4	....	3	2	....	5
Injury to property	22	34	36	14	32	73	52
Illegal pawning	1	....	....	....	2	3	....
Beer houses—convictions	24	10	....	....	12	16	13
Drunk and disorderly	90	92	97	68	108	89	87
Drunk and incapable, &c.	36	49	37	19	40	38	41
Poaching	3	1	....	1	2	....	....
Trespass .....	....	....	1	1	....	2	....
Vagrancy.....	173	115	89	82	82	55	51
Common assaults.....	27	37	23	19	30	41	63
Deserting their families	6	3	1	8	11	5	4
Forgery .....	....	1	2	....	....	2	....
Leaving service	2	3	1	....	7	3	2
Perjury	1	2	....	2	....	....	....
Concealment of birth .....	....	....	....	1	....	....	....
Cruelty to animals .....	....	....	....	....	....	2	....
Aggravated assaults.....	....	....	....	....	....	....	4
Total	629	648	572	553	740	794	740

Note.—The reason of the increase in Larceny during the last four years is, that all Petty Larceny cases are included in the last four years.

TABLE B.

Table showing the Number of Offences committed in Cheltenham in each Year from 1849 to 1855, inclusive; showing also the Proportion Per Cent. which Eight of the Offences, greatest in number, respectively bear to the Total Number of Offences.

	1849.		1850.		1851.		1852.		1853.		1854.		1855.		Total of Seven Years, 1849-56.	
	Number of Offences.	Prop. Per Cent. to Total.	Number of Offences.	Prop. Per Cent. to Total.	Number of Offences.	Prop. Per Cent. to Total.	Number of Offences.	Prop. Per Cent. to Total.	Number of Offences.	Prop. Per Cent. to Total.	Number of Offences.	Prop. Per Cent. to Total.	Number of Offences.	Prop. Per Cent. to Total.	Number of Offences.	Prop. Per Cent. to Total.
Stealing from the Person	16	2·6	28	4·3	28	4·9	19	3·5	34	4·6	78	9·8	19	2·6	222	4·8
Larceny	143	22·7	183	28·2	200	34·8	259	46·8	322	43·5	334	42·1	329	44·4	1,770	37·9
Assaults on Police	51	8·1	48	7·4	31	5·4	14	2·5	21	2·8	22	2·8	31	4·2	218	4·7
Injury to Property	22	3·5	34	5·3	36	6·3	14	2·5	32	4·3	73	9·2	52	7·0	263	5·6
Drunk and Disorderly	90	14·3	92	14·2	97	16·9	68	12·3	108	14·6	89	11·2	87	11·8	631	13·5
Drunk and Incapable	36	5·7	49	7·6	37	6·4	19	3·5	40	5·4	38	4·8	41	5·5	260	5·6
Vagrancy	173	27·5	115	17·7	89	15·6	82	14·8	82	11·1	55	6·9	51	7·0	647	13·8
Common Assault	27	4·3	37	5·7	23	4·0	19	3·4	30	4·1	41	5·2	63	8·5	240	5·1
Other offences	71	11·3	62	9·6	31	5·7	59	10·7	71	9·6	64	8·0	67	9·0	425	9·0
Total	629	100·	648	100·	572	100·	553	100·	740	100·	794	100·	740	100·	4,676	100·